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EXTRACT

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REPORTS EX-WEHRMACHT OFFICERS COOPERATING WITH SOVIETS — STOCKHOLM,
Morgon Tidningen, 18 Nov 1950

Berlin, 17 November — During the past few days, new facts have come to light concerning cooperation between the Soviets and a group of former German military men. These men are a strictly separate group from the generals who placed themselves at the disposal of the so-called People's Police in the East Zone. They are making preparations for the day when "Soviet tanks will roll westward."

The most interesting fact in this connection is that a number of the Nazis who fled to Argentina are actively engaged in this cooperation. One of these Nazi officers, former Luftwaffe Colonel Rudel, has very recently been on an illegal visit in West Germany. He came to Germany via Switzerland. It is said that he traveled in West Germany for a couple of weeks, establishing contact with, in most cases, young officers. Panzer General Guderian is said to be one of the older officers whom he contacted.

Rudel and his group, which operates in cooperation with a number of former SS leaders headed by Skorzeny, offer as their main argument the thesis that Germany cannot be defended by less than 100 divisions. It is impossible to set up such a force. Therefore, Rudel says, there is nothing to do but "let the Soviet tanks roll." The group argues further that the Soviets will decide to treat the Germans relatively well.

Rudel and his men see their big chance in a Soviet occupation of West Germany. Should such an occupation occur, they expect the Bonn government to flee to Britain. In such a situation, an illegal Nazi organization could appear openly; likewise, the military apparatus could be brought to life. The incorrigible Nazi officers feel a bitter hatred toward their military colleagues who were involved in the conspiracy against Hitler which manifested itself in the attempt on Hitler's life on 10 July 1944.

File: Skorzeny

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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In a more moderate form, there are also Nazi-Communist tendencies in the so-called Bruderschaft, which in early November held its first national meeting in Bielefeld. One of the leaders of this group is the former officer Franke-Grieksch, who in an interview with a Swiss newspaper attacked the government in Bonn for being "too strongly oriented toward the West." It is significant that Hanna Himmler, Heinrich Himmler's daughter, and a couple of other Nazi leaders were among those invited to Bielefeld. At the last minute, however, the invitations were withdrawn, as the sponsors of the meeting felt that this might give rise to disturbances. — Willy Brandt

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